

Eurobachelor and Euromaster: the end of the beginning

Following the successful Eurobachelor project, during which 20 institutions from eleven countries were awarded the Eurobachelor Quality Label for a total of 30 programmes, the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTNA) carried out a Bologna second cycle project called Euromaster, also funded by the European Commission under the programme Socrates.

20 institutions from twelve countries applied for the Euromaster or the Eurobachelor label. Three applications came from international consortia running joint programmes; the largest of these, the "European Master in Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling" group, involves 47 universities from eight countries. Such applications presently fall through the net of national accreditation procedures, but ECTNA as an international organisation was



able to devise a satisfactory accreditation and documentation procedure.

During the pilot projects, ECTNA emphasized sustainability for its Labels. Four cooperation agreements have now been signed. In the future Labels can be awarded by the German accreditation agency ASIIN, the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), the Italian Chemical Society and the Polish Accreditation Council UKA. ASIIN has already awarded Labels to three institutions, and the first round of Polish applications was planned for Spring 2008.

ECTNA itself will continue to award its Labels, which will also be available to institutions outside the Bologna area. Here, however, there will be new problems to be solved, as the award of the Labels within the Bologna area requires the correct use of the ECTS system.

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Young Chemists celebrated first anniversary

The EuCheMS Young Chemists Network (EYCN) celebrated its first anniversary in Madrid, Spain, during the Delegate Assembly in March 2008. During its first year EYCN grew significantly and has now representatives from 20 member societies and one affiliated member society. In this year's meeting 31 delegates from member societies participated at discussions and workshops. The main objective of the meeting was sharing experiences, achieved by presentations of the main projects and activities developed by each chemical society.

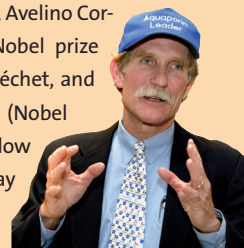
Younger chemist sections are established by the national EuCheMS societies. Creating contacts within the chemical community are considered to be at least as necessary as the scientific discussion itself. Therefore in-



formal meetings are important, since they lower the barrier for starting discussions. Sharing events, even if the topic is not strictly chemistry, deepens the feeling of togetherness and encourages participating to actions organised by the society. The first EYCN Congress will be held together with the Spring Symposium of the German JCF (JungChemikerForum) in Essen, Germany, and so be joining an established conference. Cristina Todasca, cris@eycn.eu, www.eycn.eu

Chemists meet in Torino

The 2nd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress will start on 16 September in Torino, Italy with about 2 000 chemists coming from all over the world. During the opening session two plenary lectures will be delivered by Kyriacos C. Nicolaou, awarded the August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkünze by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, and Martyn Poliakoff, awarded the EuCheMS Lectureship 2008. The other plenary lectures by K. Barry Sharpless (Nobel prize 2001), Avelino Corma, Peter Agre (Nobel prize 2003), Jean M. J. Fréchet, and Robert H. Grubbs (Nobel prize 2005) will follow one or two each day of the Congress.



Peter Agre will give a plenary lecture.

The Scientific Programme contains more than 1600 presentations. Among them about 1 300 posters will be displayed during two sessions every day. A special "Wine and Cheese" poster session is organised on Thursday evening. In order to satisfy as many authors as possible, asking for an oral presentation, two "jam" sessions have been added on Wednesday and Friday late afternoon. Moreover, every afternoon a special session will be devoted to presentations by the candidates for the 2008 European Young Chemist Awards, sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society. Many different events have been organised on the occasion of the Congress such as the Satellite Meeting on "Chemistry funding in Europe: Where do we stand" or the "1st Silver Flask Trophy: A European magic of chemistry contest" with the participation of wizards coming from France, Germany, Italy, Serbia and United Kingdom. Last, but not least, the Social Programme includes the Welcome Reception in the Lingotto Conference Centre, the Concert at Palavela (famous venue of the Winter Olympic Games in 2006), and the Gala Dinner at Palazzo dell' Arsenal, an ancient building of the 17th century.

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Wolfgang Fritsche 80

Wolfgang Fritsche, Honorary Life President of EuCheMS and former Secretary General of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh), celebrated his 80th birthday on 11 March. Fritsche was among the leading figures in the creation of the Federation of European Chemical societies (FECS), the predecessor organisation of EuCheMS and served as FECS Secretary General (1976-88) and President (1989-92). On behalf of EuCheMS, Wolfram Koch (right on the photo), GDCh's Executive Director and member of the EuCheMS executive committee presented a letter of congratulations from EuCheMS President Giovanni Natile. *ks/wk*



Sustainable Chemistry Award

At its meeting last October in Frankfurt the EuCheMS General Assembly approved the principle of establishing a European Sustainable Chemistry Award, working in cooperation with the European Technology Platform SusChem. In the meantime SusChem has agreed to support this initiative and also the European Commission has indicated its support in principle. The Award should be designed to promote innovations for the sustainable production and use of chemical products. It will recognize European companies, research teams and other organisations that make an outstanding contribution to sustainable development by applying green and sustainable chemistry. The EuCheMS Strategy and Finance Committee established a working group to explore the criteria of the award as well as issues regarding funding and promotion.

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Platform Food for Life identifies key thrusts

A draft of the Implementation Plan (IP) of the European Technology Platform (ETP) Food for Life has been published in advance of a consultation in Brussels. The IP identifies three key thrusts that are most important for the future competitiveness of the European food and drink sector and focuses on areas that would help to meet the European consumers' desires for healthy, safe, varied and affordable food as well as society's increasing concern about the environment:

- Improving health, well-being and longevity,
- building consumer confidence, and
- supporting sustainable and ethical production.

The draft identifies the research (much of it chemistry and molecular science), training and knowledge-transfer requirements, identifies where there is a need to build new capacities in Europe and identifies, for the first time, the level of resource needed to deliver the programme.

Currently, there are 31 national food platforms being developed across Europe and Israel, and these will have a vital role in en-



Photo: TU Berlin Pressestelle/Böck

hancing information flows to and from the ETP, identifying regional challenges and opportunities, and ensuring that all parts of the continent can benefit from the outputs of the ETP.

Because the food chain sector is composed overwhelmingly of 96 percent of small companies, particular attention is paid to facilitating knowledge-transfer and extending the innovation culture to such companies. International links are also important so that best practices developed in other parts of the world can be captured, adapted and exploited across Europe.

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New Working Party on Green and Sustainable Chemistry

The Working Party (WP) on Green and Sustainable Chemistry defined its priorities to avoid overlapping with other EuCheMS Divisions and to collect information from national societies on activities in sustainable chemistry. Future networking activities will include industrial interlocutors and their sponsorships to promote the involvement of young scientists and contacts with European institutions. The WP will ask suitable journals to host a column dedicated to the activities of the WP and will endorse congresses. The WP intends to hold regular outreaching meetings in Brussels as well as itinerant internal meetings. The second meeting of the WP will take place in Venice on 11 to 12 October 2008.

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Energy policy: EuCheMS visited European Commission

In April 2008, Richard Pike and Wolfram Koch visited the European Commission and met with Stefan Tostmann, Head of Unit Energy Innovation and Technology and his co-worker Inigo Sabater Eizaguirre within the Directorate General for Energy and Transport. Pike and Koch focused on the role of chemical sciences in energy policy and exchanged copies of a report produced by the Working Party on Chemistry and Energy. They pointed out that EuCheMS is a one-stop shop for accessing impartial advice on topics relevant to the Directorate. The meeting concluded with the understanding that Tostmann and his colleagues would consider approaching EuCheMS for advice in the future.

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From Ispra to Helsinki: the REACH agency

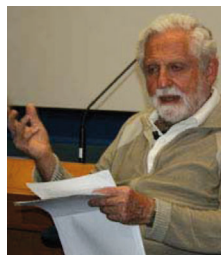
The year 2008 represents a landmark in the history of the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB), part of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) located in Ispra, Italy. Although the closing of the ECB may be viewed with nostalgia, it also marks a 15-year remarkable history. Moreover, the accomplishment of the ECB chapter ushers in phoenix-like a new episode with the start-up of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, Finland in June 2008.

This year can therefore be considered as a double celebration drawing the curtain on 15 years of success, whilst reopening it on a new and challenging landscape in the development of the evolving chemicals legislation REACH. REACH is the EU's new chemicals regulation that replaces some 40 separate legal texts under one coherent piece of legislation. It will have international impact due to the requirement it puts on industry itself to provide proof of the safety of chem-

icals produced or imported. ECB has been a key instrument in the development of REACH and played a major role in the development of the database for the collection and exchange of chemical data. The JRC will continue to support REACH and ECHA in its start-up phase.

The JRC celebrated the ECB anniversary with Science & Art Days at the end of April 2008. Carl Djerassi (photo) held a lecture and the play "Oxygen", written by Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann was performed. Speeches from representatives of the European Commission, Industry, EU Member States, and ECHA stated the relevancy of the ECB work.

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Charter for researchers

Members of the EuCheMS Finance and Strategy Committee met Massimo Serpieri, policy developer in the European Commission's Directorate General for Research, to discuss the implementation of the "European Charter for Researchers" and "Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers". These documents are focused at consolidating and giving structure to European research policy.

Member states are invited to offer researchers framework conditions for recruitment, professional treatments and career developments by removing all administrative, legal, geographical and cross-sector obstacles. The recommendation also provides a valuable instrument for undertaking the researchers' career prospects in EU. EuCheMS and member societies could raise awareness on the Charter and Code.

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http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/pdf/am509774CEE_EN_E4.pdf*

Roadmap for chemical sciences

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is mapping out priorities for the chemical sciences over the next five to ten years and is asking the chemical community to contribute their expertise. The RSC has identified ten potential areas including food, water and energy and, through a series of scoping workshops, has assigned key issues and visions for each.

The project is now at its most crucial stage and the community is asked to assess the priority areas. For example, should chemists focus their research efforts in developing technologies to harness and store energy from sunlight? Chemical scientists are invited to comment on areas that match their interest.

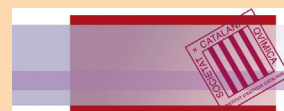
The Roadmap has the potential to influence the work of industry, academia and the broader community as well as allowing a better mechanism to inform government and policy.

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Online consultation on www.rsc.org/roadmap*

Portrait: the Catalan Society of Chemistry

The Catalan Society of Chemistry (Societat Catalana de Química, SCQ) is affiliated to the Institute of Catalan Studies, which is the most important Catalan scientific institution. The society promotes the cultivation of chemistry, to foster research activities and to divulge the results in the territories of Catalan language and culture. SCQ is now 75 years old, and has around 700 affiliated members.

SCQ organises a biannual chemistry symposium for young Catalan researchers. This year the fifth meeting was held in January at the University of Vic with more than 200 participants. SCQ also organises and gives support to several other conferences, meetings and workshops. Especially relevant are debates and working days focused on chemistry for high school teachers.



SCQ collaborates with other European Chemical Societies and participates in international events such as the Great French South-West working days organised by the French Chemical Society, the co-organisation of a conference with the Royal Spanish Society of Chemistry, and the organisation of a scientific conference together with the Andorran Science Society. Finally, tasks of SCQ include publication of the Journal of the Catalan Chemical Society and the publication of book series such as the collection "Clàssics de la Química" aimed at highlighting the most influential scientific papers in Chemistry.

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New members of EuCheMS

The Catalan Society of Chemistry has joined EuCheMS as full member in 2007 (see article above). The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) became an Associated Organisation in 2008. *ks*

Supramolecular chemistry met nanoscience in France

The symposium on “Functional Supramolecular Architectures for organic electronics and nanotechnology” held



at the Spring meeting of the European Materials Research Society in May in Strasbourg, France, was organised in the frame of the EUROCORES (European Collaborative Research) SONS (Self-Organised Nanostructures) Programme. The Symposium was opened by Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Prize winner 1987, who set the stage for a succession of 47 speakers and more than 250 poster presentations. Topics ranged from synthetic chemistry, liquid crystals, nanoparticles, polymers, macromolecules to advanced imaging and processing. The speakers showed the advancement in the field which is gradually evolving from pure basic chemistry towards a more multidisciplinary approach, where chemists work together with physicists, material scientists and engineers. Self-organised organic and inorganic molecular structures form supramolecular architectures which are exploited in several areas of nanotechnology, for example for the production of light-emitting diodes and other electronic devices.

In his talk Lehn remarked that chemistry is a tool to understand the processes that govern self-assembly of supramolecular structures and thus forms the bases of nanotechnology.

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Science week in Jersey

The School of Chemistry, University of Bristol working with the States of Jersey Education Department held the inaugural Jersey Science Week in April 2008. In chemistry, a team of six Bristol chemists worked with primary and secondary-aged students in five days. 1200 pupils from ten primary schools visited the primary chemistry workshops and more than 3000 students of eight secondary schools were engaged by a total of 19 performances of ‘A Pollutant’s Tale’, a lecture demonstration designed to support the chemistry curriculum.

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Events

3 – 8 October 2008, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy
ESF-COST High Level Research Conference on Systems Chemistry, www.esf.org/conference/08267

5 – 8 October 2008, Rhodes, Greece
EUROTOX 2008 From toxins to omics: health, safety and well-being, <http://eurotox2008.org>

16 – 19 October 2008, Athens, Greece
3rd International Conference AQUA 2008: Water Science and Technology, www.leaderexpo.gr

13 – 15 May 2009, Prague, Czech Republic
6th Chemical Reactions in Food, www.carolina.cz/crfvi

14 – 17 June 2009, Stockholm, Sweden
12th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/icce2009.htm

3 – 5 September 2009, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
3rd European Conference on Chemistry in Life Sciences, www.gdch.de/3ecclsc

6 – 10 September 2009, Innsbruck, Austria
EuroAnalysis 2009, www.euroanalysis2009.at

EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses 2010 and 2012

“Chemistry – the Creative Force” will be the motto of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, to be held in Nuremberg, Germany, from 29 August to 2 September 2010. The scientific committee chaired by Francois Diederich, ETH Zürich, and Andreas Hirsch, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (co-chair) has identified seven main congress themes, each hosting three symposia, spanning from innovative materials over molecular life sciences to resources and environment. In the planning stage is also a symposium on sustainable chemistry in chemistry education. Regular updates can be found on the web site of the congress (www.euchems-congress2010.org).

The 4th consecutive Congress of European chemists will be organised on 26 to 30 August 2012 in Prague by the Czech Chemical Society. The organisers wish to bring together people



Nuremberg in Germany.

from the whole chemical world. Hence they ask all colleagues not to organise any competing scientific meetings during this period. All ideas and suggestions about the programme, satellite meetings, topics, slogans, public performances etc. are welcome and should be sent to Pavel Drašar (Pavel.Drasar@vscht.cz).

EuCheMS Newsletter

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